ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION, IRELAND.

CARLTON L.C.B.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of *Ireland*, to the Lord Lieutenant, dated 12 August 1839.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY HUGH, VISCOUNT EBRINGTON,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL,
AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

IN reporting to your Excellency the several proceedings of the Commissioners for the year ending the 1st of August last, pursuant to the provisions of the Act 3 & 4 Will 4, c. 37, we, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland, whose hands and seal are hereunto annexed, feel much satisfaction in being enabled to state that very favourable Reports have been received from many of the Diocesans, and from other sources, as to the general state of repair of the Churches throughout Ireland; and that although the sum expended on repairs within the year past has been considerable, the expenses of the Board under this head are gradually diminishing. In order to enable the Commissioners judiciously to apply the sum appropriated to repairs, the several Incumbents were invited at an early period of the year to specify, in their Parochial Estimates, such repairs as, in their opinion, appeared to be necessary; and the several Diocesans were requested to favour the Board with their Visitation Notes, and Rural Deans' Reports, which contain very valuable information in many cases as to the state of the buildings. Aided by the information supplied by these documents, the Commissioners proceeded to select from their architects' estimates, which fully detailed all that might be necessary to effect a thorough repair in each case, such works as might be postponed with the least prejudice to the buildings, and specifications of the works immediately necessary were subsequently submitted to the respective Incumbents for their consideration and report. Proceeding on this principle, a considerable reduction was effected in the amount of the original estimates, and the Commissioners have been enabled to provide for repairs in 486 Churches in the present year.

The great injuries incurred by the storm of the 6th of January last, have, however, occasioned an additional expense, estimated at about 10,000 *l.*, three-fourths of the Churches throughout Ireland having been injured in a greater or less degree. The damage sustained was, in many cases, very considerable, and it is to be observed that great inconvenience was experienced, and increased expense incurred in promptly meeting this exigency, in consequence of the great demand thus suddenly created for tradesmen and materials, which were principally felt in the west of Ireland.

Within this year the rebuilding of 16, and the enlargement of 11 Churches, have been provided for by the Commissioners, with the aid of private subscriptions. In some cases, the money appropriated will only provide for the erection of the Church, the pewing being postponed until further aid can be provided either by the Commissioners or private subscriptions; and in respect of the building provided for in this and former years, it is to be observed that in some instances the works have not yet been commenced, the Commissioners awaiting the requisite proceedings for changes of site where such have been represented as necessary.

A sum of 379*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* has been subscribed by parishioners for the purchase of stoves for several Churches; and as an inducement to so desirable an object, the Commissioners have expressed their readiness to erect the stoves with suitable flues, which generally amounts to one-half of the expense.

The payments made for requisites for the celebration of Divine Service in the respective Churches and Chapels, have amounted, to the 1st instant, to the sum of 31,800*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*; and a further sum of 575*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* became necessary to provide Bibles, Prayer and Registry Books, inconvenience and expense having

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having been occasioned by allowing Incumbents to procure them. The effect of this arrangement has been to provide the Churches with better books, and at a less expense than they could otherwise he procured.

During the past year the injuries of a malicious nature done to Churches, or by the interment of bodies within the prohibited distance of the Churches, have been few and inconsiderable, which may be attributed to the prompt and decisive measures taken by the Commissioners to enforce the penalties incurred by a violation of the law in these respects.

With regard to the repairs of Churches which are both cathedral and parochial, the Commissioners have received the approval of your Excellency and the Privy Council to recommendations made by them in respect to the Cathedral Churches of Armagh and Leighlin, whereby the proportions in which the expenses of repairs for these Cathedrals are to be borne have been finally adjusted. And since the date of our last Report, the circumstances of the parochial Cathedral Churches of Connor, Elphin, Waterford, and Down, have been brought under the notice of the Commissioners. In the case of the Cathedral Church of Connor, which is unprovided with an economy estate or other cathedral fund, the Commissioners have received the approval of your Excellency and the Privy Council to their recommendation, that the repairs of it should be wholly provided for out of their funds; and as regards that of Elphin, it having been ascertained that an annual sum had been bequeathed by a former Bishop for its repairs, the Dean and Chapter have been required to make it available; and not having as yet done so, the Commissioners have postponed making any recommendation to your Excellency and the Privy Council on the subject.

The want of information respecting the economy and common estates of the Dean and Chapter of Waterford, which has been called for, has necessarily prevented any recommendation in regard to it; and in the case of Down, the Commissioners have not thought it expedient, under the circumstances of this Cathedral, that any portion of the expense should be borne by them.

Your Excellency having been pleased to approve of the proposal accepted by the Commissioners on behalf of Mr. Foley, for the Mensal Lands of Leighlin, he has been declared the tenant accordingly.

The See-houses, Mensal, and Demesne Lands of Ferns, Raphoe, and Cashel, have been re-advertised, and an adequate proposal having been made by Mr. Butler Bryan for those of Ferns, same was accepted, and the particulars thereof having been submitted for your Excellency's consideration, were approved of; but Raphoe was consumed by fire, but no loss has been sustained, as the house was insured and the amount of the damages sustained has been recovered.

Legal proceedings are still pending against the representatives of Doctor Butson, late Bishop of Killaloe and Clonfert, on account of the monies due for the dilapidations incurred on the See-house of Clonfert.

With respect to the Rectorial Tithes of the parish of Cahir, your Excellency and the Privy Council having, on the 1st of June last, been pleased to express an opinion that you could not come to any decision on the original appeal of the Earl of Glengall until it be found whether the said Earl were entitled to the Tithes of the whole of the parish of Cahir, or if not, to the Tithes of any and what portion thereof, and having directed this opinion to be communicated to the parties concerned, that the necessary proceedings might be had in the Court of Common Pleas, the Commissioners caused application to that Court to be forthwith made, and the matter has been directed to stand over until the next term, when the subject will be again brought under consideration of the Court.

Since our last Report the revenues of the See of Ardagh have, by the death of the late Archbishop of Tuam, become vested in the Commissioners.

The appointment of a Clerk to the Deanery of Dromore having been suspended in December 1837, on the recommendation of the Commissioners, your Excellency and the Council have since been pleased to remove the suspension, and to appropriate the Rectorial Tithes, which constituted the corps thereof, to the use of the respective Vicars, or to the perpetual Cures, which have

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have been erected, so that the revenues of this dignity have ceased, since the Order in Council of the 10th of October 1838, to be available to the funds of the Commissioners.

The Precentorship of St. Canice, Kilkenny, of the annual value of 100 *l.* 13 *s.* 10 *d.*, the Prebends of Killabegs and Mayne, founded in the Cathedral Churches of Tuam and St. Canice, the former of the annual value of 108 *l.* 4 *s.* 8 *d.*, and the latter of the value of 217 *l.* 12 *s.* 3 *d.*, have become vacant within the year; and on the recommendation of the Commissioners, your Excellency and the Council have been pleased to suspend the appointment of Clerks to them respectively. Two benefices, in which Divine Service had not been celebrated for the three years ending February 1833, have become vacant within the year, namely the Vicarage of Kilcully, in the Diocese of Cork, of the annual value of 95 *l.* 10 *s.* 9 *d.*, and the Rectory and Vicarage of Grange, St. John Baptist, in the Diocese of Lismore, of the annual value of 45 *l.*, and the appointments of Clerks to those benefices have been suspended, and the occasional duties provided for on the nomination of the Curates by the Diocesans. The recommendations made by the Commissioners in relation to the properties of the Minor Canons of Ardfert and the Vicars-Choral of the cathedral churches of Cork, Cloyne, Ross, Lismore, and Tuam, under the provisions of the Act of 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 99, are still under the consideration of your Excellency and the Council.

Under the head of Perpetuity Purchases, we have to report that within the year 106 applications have been received, and purchases completed to the amount of 55,722 *l.*; of this amount, the sum of 4,186 *l.* has been derived from purchases made by sub-tenants. The comparatively small amount arising from this latter description of purchase is mainly attributable to the difficulty experienced in procuring sufficient information to enable the Commissioners to make the necessary calculations so as to apportion not only the rents to be reserved to ecclesiastical landlords, and the rentcharges to the several intervening landlords, but also the respective amounts of purchase-money to be contributed by the immediate tenant; and all the tenants having toties quoties covenants for renewal, according to their respective interests, it being necessary, on the application of any one sub-tenant (however low in degree, and however small the portion of land held by him may be,) for the purchase of a perpetuity, to fix the terms of purchase, and the several proportions of rent and rentcharge for each person of equal or superior degree intervening between the applicant and the ecclesiastical landlord; and as the Commissioners have been advised that the parties alluded to cannot be compelled to furnish the necessary information, it is to be apprehended that little if any further progress can be made in the several treaties now pending, in which are involved the interests of very many persons, without an amendment of the law in this respect.

An account of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Commissioners to the 1st instant is annexed to this our Report, showing the sources from whence the receipts have arisen, and the specific purposes to which they have been applied.

All which is humbly submitted to your Excellency's consideration.

(signed) JOHN G. ARMAGH.
RICHARD DUBLIN.
CHARLES KILDARE.
STEPHEN CASHEL.
HENRY MEREDYTH.
JOHN C. ERCK.
WILLIAM C. QUIN.

(SEAL.)

Board Room, 2, Kildare-street,
12 August 1839.

Thomas Bushe, Secretary.

(I certify this to be a true copy.)

28 February 1840. *Thomas Bushe*, Secretary.

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AN ACCOUNT of RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS for One Year, ending the 1st day of August 1839.

RECEIPTS:	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Balance of General Fund, 1st August 1838 - - - -	514	15	5			
Ditto of Perpetuity Purchase Fund, ditto - - - -	3,300	13	6½			
				3,815	8	11½
Waterford and Lismore See estates - - - - - -	4,281	10	3			
Killalla and Achonry ditto - - - - - - - -	4,728	12	8			
Clonfert and Kilmacduagh ditto - - - - - - -	1,852	8	8			
Raphoe ditto - - - - - - - - - -	4,469	1	10			
Ossory ditto - - - - - - - - - -	4,402	10	4			
Cork and Ross ditto - - - - - - - - -	4,928	17	8			
Ardagh ditto - - - - - - - - - -	183	16	6			
				24,846	17	11
Fine on demiss of Ferns see-house and mensal lands - - - - - -				4,000	–	–
Ditto on demise of part of Cloyne mensal lands - - - - - -				200	–	–
Amount of damage sustained by loss of Raphoe see-house by fire - - -				3,360	13	3
Instalments on the sale of timber on the mensal lands of Clonfert and Cloyne				622	11	7
Charge on the See of Derry under 3 & 4 Will. 4, cap. 37 - - - -				4,160	–	–
Taxation of bishoprics and benefices - - - - - - - - -				1,575	18	9
Revenues of suspended dignities, benefices, &c. - - - - - - -				5,865	16	6
Repayment of glebe-house loan instalments - - - - - - -				1,599	11	4
Ditto of Church loan instalments - - - - - - - - -				140	10	–
Arrears of First Fruits and Fees - - - - - - - - - -				465	1	10
Sales of Perpetuities - - - - - - - - - - - -				55,722	3	6
Sale of 27,400 *l.* 3 per cent. Consols - - - - - - - - -				25,686	17	3
One year's interest on 83,000 *l.* 3 per cent. Consols - - - - - -				2,490	–	–
Interest on Perpetuity Mortgages - - - - - - - - -				2,083	19	–
Expenses incurred in calculating Perpetuities - - - - - - -				29	8	6
Received for sales of Perpetuity Printed Forms - - - - - - -				18	3	6
Contributions from Economy Funds for repairing cathedral churches - -				36	19	–
Bequest for keeping Donamore church in repair - - - - - - -				24	12	8
Parochial subscriptions for building and enlarging churches -	4,193	2	10			
Stoves, &c. - - - - - - - - - - -	600	8	6			
				4,793	11	4
Monies granted on Parochial Estimates, and returned unapplied - - -				437	13	3
			£.	141,975	18	1½

DISBURSEMENTS:	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Church building under engagements of late Board of First Fruits - - - - - - - - - - - -	788	–	–			
Glebe-house building under like engagement - - -	433	15	–			
				1,231	15	–
Re-building and enlargement of churches - - - - - - - -				14,129	17	11
Repairs of churches - - - - - - - - - - - -				48,522	6	3
Extraordinary repairs of churches - - - - - - - - - -				6,049	2	6

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Disbursements—*continued.*		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Yearly estimate of expenses for church purposes for year ending at Easter 1839		31,800 6 4	
Stipends payable to Dublin curates	£. 2,013 19 1		
Stipends payable to other curates	441 5 6		
		2,455 4 7	
Bibles, Prayer, and Registry Books		575 18 5	
			34,831 9 4
Arrears of vestry assessments for 1831, 1832, and 1833			55 – –
Salaries of commissioners, secretary, treasurer, and clerks, &c.			6,322 11 2
Incidents, consisting of rent, taxes, office furniture, coals, candles, house repairs, temporary clerks, &c.		1,713 – 9	
Payment to Bishop of Cork, under 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 99		1,500 – –	
Interest of loan to Commissioners of Public Works		4,000 – –	
Salaries to vicars-choral of Cashel, and curates		300 19 3	
Salaries to diocesan schoolmasters		67 14 6	
Registrar's fees for attested copies of documents, &c.		5 15 4	
Charges on see-house of Waterford		97 17 7	
Care-taker's wages, taxes, and other expenses on see-houses, and mensal lands undemised		467 1 –	
Expenses incurred in suing for tithe composition under civil hill decrees, and enrolling certificates, &c.		85 9 5	
Stationery and printing		53 9 8	
Advertisements for proposals for church works, and undemised see-houses and mensal lands		301 11 –	
Proportion of rentcharges payable to former incumbents of suspended benefices		42 6 –	
			8,635 4 6
Registrar of perpetuity certificates			59 19 5
Balances, 1 August 1839, Perpetuity Purchase Fund		4,962 17 7½	
General Fund		17,175 14 5	
			22,138 12 – ½
		£.	141,975 18 1½

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